Message

From: Simon, Paul [Simon.Paul@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/13/2016 11:02:19 PM
To: Enck, Judith [Enck.Judith@epa.gov]
CC: Mccabe, Catherine [McCabe.Catherine@epa.gov]; Evangelista, Pat [Evangelista.Pat@epa.gov]; LaPosta, Dore [LaPosta.Dore@epa.gov]; Schaaf, Eric [Schaaf.Eric@epa.gov]; Feinmark, Phyllis [Feinmark.Phyllis@epa.gov]; Sawyer, William [Sawyer.William@epa.gov]
Subject: Taconic Plastics

Importance: High

Ex. 5 - Delib. Process, Atty-Client, Atty Work Prod.

From: Enck, Judith
Sent: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 7:44 PM
To: Simon, Paul <Simon.Paul@epa.gov>; LaPosta, Dore <LaPosta.Dore@epa.gov>; Evangelista, Pat <Evangelista.Pat@epa.gov>

Cc: Mccabe, Catherine <McCabe.Catherine@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: News Clips (PFOA)

Ex. 5 - Delib. Process, Atty-Client, Atty Work Prod.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Region2 PAD News <Region2_PAD_News@epa.gov>
Date: April 12, 2016 at 7:45:55 AM EDT
To: "R2 EPA Region 2 (EPA Staff)" <R2_EPA_Region_2_EPA_Staff@epa.gov>
Subject: News Clips (PFOA)

Times Union: Rensselaer County announces latest PFOA results

Tests so far have found 24 wells with high PFOA level

By Kenneth C. Crowe II

Updated 8:28 pm, Monday, April 11, 2016

Troy

Rensselaer County's latest tests for PFOA contamination in 14 private wells in the town of Petersburgh found only one exceeding federal guidelines for the suspected carcinogenic chemical, the county announced Monday.

The tests for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) on March 14 found one well with the chemical at between 101 and 1,000 parts per trillion (ppt). U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidelines call for not using the water for consumption when the PFOA level is more than 100 ppt.

The other results, the county said were: three samples below 20 ppt; five samples between 21 ppt and EPA guidance level of 100 ppt; and five samples classified as non-detect, which is less than 0.67 ppt.

The county has been working with the state Health Department and state Department of Environmental Conservation to deal with PFOA contamination in Petersburgh, Hoosick and Hoosick Falls.

The source of the Petersburgh contamination is the Taconic Inc. plant. PFOA is used in the manufacture of nonstick surfaces and other materials.

Any well with PFOA above the EPA guideline of 100 may have a filtration system installed under an agreement between Taconic and DEC.

The test results came from Pace Analytical through Bender Labs.

So far the county has results from 86 private wells within a mile of Taconic in Petersburgh. The results are:

Below 20 ppt: 19 samples

Between 21 ppt and EPA guidance level of 100 ppt: 15 samples

Between 101 ppt and 1,000 ppt: 17 samples

Between 1,001 and 2,100 ppt (the highest result found was 2,100 ppt): seven samples

Non-detect (less than 0.67 ppt): 28 samples

The 86 water samples came from 70 homes, with some being taken before and after water treatment systems were installed.

The county is waiting for results on 65 previously taken samples.

Vermont Biz

PFOA blood tests offered to people in North Bennington and Bennington

04/12/2016

Vermont Business Magazine The Vermont Department of Health, with support from Southwestern Vermont Medical Center, is offering PFOA blood draw clinics as part of the State of Vermont's response to PFOA contamination of drinking water wells in North Bennington and Bennington. The clinic dates are set for late April through mid-May. Private drinking water wells in the area around the former Chemfab/Saint-Gobain have had detections of PFOA ranging from non-detect to nearly 3,000 parts per trillion, well above Vermont's advisory level of 20 parts per trillion for drinking water.

The blood tests will measure the level of PFOA in an individual's blood, and this can be compared to levels measured by CDC's National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) for adults and older children in the U.S. Most adults have low levels of PFOA in their blood.

"We understand why people want to have their blood tested, and this is a service we can provide," said Health Commissioner Harry Chen, MD. "The higher the concentration of PFOA in drinking water, the higher the level of PFOA will likely be in your blood. The test cannot tell if your exposure to PFOA will cause health problems for you in the future, or if a health problem you have was caused by PFOA, but it may help inform discussions about your health between you and your doctor."

Eligibility – A person is eligible for the blood test if:

1. The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation tested the well of the home in North Bennington/Bennington where you live now, or where you lived any time in the past eight years. – and/or –

2. You worked or lived at the former Chemfab/Saint-Gobain site at 940/1030 Water Street in North Bennington, or you work or live there now.

Registration and Scheduling – To begin the registration process, complete the online survey by April 30 at: http://survey.healthvermont.gov/s3/PFOA-Blood-Draw-Registration (link is external).

The Health Department will then contact eligible participants to schedule appointments. Before having blood drawn at the scheduled appointment, a health and exposure questionnaire must be completed for each participant regarding age, water consumption patterns, diet and exercise, work history, health and medical history.

Clinic Dates – Blood draw clinics for eligible people are by appointment only. The clinics will be held at the Health Department district office in Bennington starting in late April and continuing through mid-May: Friday, April 29; Saturday, April 30; Wednesday, May 4; Thursday, May 5; Wednesday, May 11; and Thursday, May 12.

There will be no cost to participants for the blood draw and laboratory analysis.

Reporting – After the clinics are completed, it will be several months for the results to be analyzed and reported back to individuals.

Southwestern Vermont Medical Center is arranging for volunteers to assist with drawing blood and providing medical waste management. The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention/Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry is providing technical assistance and laboratory analysis of blood samples.

It takes about two to four years for PFOA blood levels to reduce by half, and there is no medical treatment or intervention that can remove PFOA from the blood.

The most important action to protect health is to remove the exposure, and the State has been working to provide bottled water and install in-home filtration systems as the short-term solution for affected residents.

For more information about the PFOA blood test clinics:http://healthvermont.gov/enviro/pfoa_clinics.aspx (link is external)

For more information about PFOA and health concerns:

http://healthvermont.gov/enviro/pfoa.aspx (link is external), or call the Health Department at 800-439-8550 weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

New Hampshire NPR: With No PFOA Testing in N.H., Labs Send Flood of Water Samples Out of State

By Rick Ganley & Michael Brindley

Apr 11, 2016

With concern growing about the chemical known as PFOA contaminating drinking water systems in southern New Hampshire, residents are now looking for ways to test their own water.

State environmental officials are testing private wells near the Saint-Gobain plastics plant in Merrimack, but many outside that one-mile radius want to know if their water is safe to drink.

It turns out, however, there are no labs here in New Hampshire that test for the chemical, which some studies have linked to certain types of cancer.

Still, there are labs here in the Granite State working with residents on collecting water samples and getting PFOA testing done out of state.

That's been keeping Nelson Analytical Lab in Manchester busy. Andrew Nelson is owner and laboratory director there, and he joined NHPR's Morning Edition.

News first broke about this PFOA water contamination issue about a month ago. What have you seen since then?

Since that point, we've definitely seen a lot of concern, especially from the areas of Merrimack, Bedford and Litchfield, of course. We've seen an increasing level of concern from homeowners and residents of those areas that has been on the uptick for the last three or four weeks.

When you say an uptick, what do you mean?

A couple weeks ago when this first broke, we were getting a few calls a day. That's increased to right now between 20-25 calls a day at least with concerns over PFOA. We are seeing concerns from areas nowhere near those towns, so this has certainly increased awareness about this particular chemical throughout the whole region. We're getting calls from all over the state.

Of course, this is a chemical that's come on peoples' radar and anyone who has done water sample testing before this wasn't testing for this chemical, correct?

A couple weeks ago when this first broke, we were getting a few calls a day. That's increased to between 20 to 25 calls a day at least with concerns over PFOA.

No, they weren't and that's a common question. We do thousands and thousands of private water tests throughout New Hampshire every year. Unfortunately, the nature of testing for this chemical is much different than testing for routine well contaminants such as arsenic and radon.

Can you give us an idea of the timeline for testing? Where does it go and how much does it cost?

There are only a handful of laboratories really throughout the whole country that are performing this type of analysis. So what we and New Hampshire DES are doing is taking samples in and subcontracting to laboratories that provide this specialty test. We are using a laboratory down in Connecticut. The cost of analysis is $200, which is enough for us to cover the cost of shipping and handling the sample and that's about it. Turnaround time on this is two to three weeks, which is the other concern. This isn't something that people can give us a sample of today and know within a day or two what their results are. Once we get the sample, it's a few weeks before they know the answer.

And I'd imagine the wait times at these few labs that do PFOA testing across the country could get longer as we hear about more testing being done.

I think that's inevitable. The few labs that were set up to do this are certainly being inundated for the first time I'm sure ever with this particular analysis, so I can't imagine they're going to be able to maintain the same turnaround time and level of service.

Have you got any results back yet?

We have not. We are anxiously awaiting our first round of results. We've received between 60 to 70 water samples that are currently in process of being tested, but we did not begin receiving actual samples until within the past couple of weeks. And because the test takes two to three weeks, we haven't seen any come back yet. And I'm sure there are – between us, other laboratories and the state of New Hampshire – there must be hundreds and hundreds of samples that are still in process right now that are pending results.

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